

REMARKS

The applicants note with appreciation the acknowledgement of the claim for priority under section 119 and the notice that all of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

The applicants acknowledge and appreciate receiving a copy of form PTO-1449, on which the examiner has initialed all listed items.

The office action Summary indicates an objection to the drawings files October 23, 2003. Formal drawings were filed on February 5, 2004. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-17 are pending. Claims 1-4, 7-12, and 15-17 have been amended. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 USC 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claim 17 has been amended to recite statutory subject matter. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

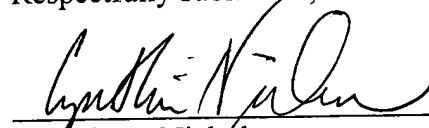
Claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The claims have been carefully reviewed and revised to correct the indefiniteness. In particular each of the instances of indefiniteness identified in the office action has been remedied.

In view of the forgoing, the applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Serial No. 10/690,843

Please charge any unforeseen fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Cynthia K. Nicholson', written over a horizontal line.

Cynthia K. Nicholson

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